



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

**Committee Bill No. 294**

LCO No. 4987



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER THE  
CITIZENS' ELECTION PROGRAM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (e) of section 9-704 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
3 *1, 2021*):

4 (e) (1) The following shall not be deemed to be qualifying  
5 contributions under subsection (a) of this section and shall, in  
6 accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection, be  
7 returned by the treasurer of the candidate committee to the contributor;  
8 [or transmitted to the State Elections Enforcement Commission for  
9 deposit in the Citizens' Election Fund:]

10 [(1)] (A) A contribution from a principal of a state contractor or  
11 prospective state contractor;

12 [(2)] (B) A contribution of less than five dollars, and a contribution of  
13 five dollars or more from an individual who does not provide the full  
14 name and complete address of the individual;

15        [(3)] (C) A contribution under subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a)  
16 of this section from an individual who does not reside in the state, in  
17 excess of the applicable limit on contributions from out-of-state  
18 individuals in subsection (a) of this section; and

19        [(4)] (D) A contribution made by a youth who is less than twelve years  
20 of age.

21        (2) In the case of a contribution described in subdivision (1) of this  
22 subsection submitted by the treasurer of the candidate committee to the  
23 State Elections Enforcement Commission as part of an application for a  
24 grant under the Citizens' Election Program, which contribution the  
25 commission accordingly deems not to be a qualifying contribution,  
26 pursuant to subsection (d) of section 9-706, as amended by this act, the  
27 treasurer shall refund such contribution to the contributor upon its  
28 return to the committee in accordance with said subsection.

29        Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 9-706 of the general statutes is  
30 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
31 *1, 2021*):

32        (d) In accordance with the provisions of subsection (g) of this section,  
33 the commission shall review the application [,] and determine whether  
34 (1) the candidate committee for the applicant has received the required  
35 qualifying contributions, (2) in the case of an application for a grant from  
36 the fund for a primary campaign, the applicant has met the applicable  
37 condition under subsection (a) of this section for applying for such grant  
38 and complied with the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this  
39 section, (3) in the case of an application for a grant from the fund for a  
40 general election campaign, the applicant has met the applicable  
41 condition under subsection (a) of this section for applying for such  
42 moneys and complied with the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of  
43 this section, and (4) in the case of an application by a minor party or  
44 petitioning party candidate for a grant from the fund for a general  
45 election campaign, the applicant qualifies as an eligible minor party  
46 candidate or an eligible petitioning party candidate, whichever is  
47 applicable. For each contribution received by the candidate committee

48 of an applicant that the commission deems not to be a qualifying  
 49 contribution, the commission shall (A) advise such applicant of such  
 50 determination and cite the applicable reason under subsection (e) of  
 51 section 9-704, as amended by this act, for such determination, and (B)  
 52 return such contribution to the committee. If the commission approves  
 53 an application, the commission shall determine the amount of the grant  
 54 payable to the candidate committee for the applicant pursuant to section  
 55 9-705 from the fund, and notify the State Comptroller and the candidate  
 56 of such candidate committee, of such amount. If the timing of the  
 57 commission's approval of the grant in relation to the Secretary of the  
 58 State's determination of ballot status is such that the commission cannot  
 59 determine whether the qualified candidate committee is entitled to the  
 60 applicable full initial grant for the primary or election or the applicable  
 61 partial grant for the primary or election, as the case may be, the  
 62 commission shall approve the lesser applicable partial initial grant. The  
 63 commission shall then authorize the payment of the remaining portion  
 64 of the applicable grant after the commission has knowledge of the  
 65 circumstances regarding the ballot status of the opposing candidates in  
 66 such primary or election. Not later than two business days following  
 67 notification by the commission, the State Comptroller shall draw an  
 68 order on the State Treasurer for payment of any such approved amount  
 69 to the qualified candidate committee from the fund.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	9-704(e)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	9-706(d)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To require that the State Elections Enforcement Commission return to a campaign treasurer any contribution that does not qualify toward receiving a grant under the Citizens' Election Program so that such treasurer may return such contribution to the contributor.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: SEN. FORMICA, 20th Dist.; REP. FISHBEIN, 90th Dist.  
REP. MASTROFRANCESCO, 80th Dist.; SEN. SAMPSON, 16th  
Dist.

S.B. 294